

THE TRANSFORMATION:

HOW JESUS, THE ISRAELI MESSIAH, BECAME THE PAGAN CHRIST

1. Jesus was the claimant for the Israeli awaited Messiah. His mission was to rejuvenate the religion based on the Law of Moses. His goal was to establish a society of Godly people, which he named Kingdom of God. To achieve this goal, he successfully infused its requisite zeal into his disciples, by urging them to outdo other Jewish sects in the field of Torah observance (MTT 5:20). He never abolished the validity of Mosaic Law.
2. Jesus never extended his preaching to anyone other than Israeli People. Wherever they were living at that period he himself preached to them, or he sent his disciples as his missionaries to preach only to them. He categorically prohibited his teachings to be preached to the Gentiles (those who are not Israelites).
3. Never it was his mission to lay his life on the Cross for the redemption/atonement of sinners. **From the sayings of Jesus recorded in the N.T. Canon, nothing could be found which affirms that, *"Forgiveness from God could only be granted after or because of his death upon Cross"*.**
4. Rather, about 20 years after Jesus' disappearance from Palestine, Paul of Tarsus, a diaspora Hellenized Jew, had concocted the doctrine of Original Sin, doctrine of Atonement through Jesus' blood, and foisted them into the Christian creed. Paul had imitated these motifs of Christianity from Greco-Roman Paganism, which was dominant in the Pagan Roman empire. These motifs were reiterated in the Nicaean council held in 325 C.E., and in the council of Hippo Regius held in 398 C.E. These Pauline motifs were accepted as Christian Creed with elaborated theological exegesis of 4th & 5th centuries C.E. expounded by the Roman Catholic Church. But the real teachings of Jesus, i.e. the re-interpretation of Mosaic Law, was suppressed by the Roman Church.

In this Council of Hippo Regius held in 398 C.E., the 27 books canon was accepted as the Christian Scripture, which was proposed by the powerful bishop Athanasius of Alexandria in 367 C.E. So many other books were rejected by the bishops there.

Question arises: On what basis/authority Athanasius or other bishops accepted these 27 books canon as Christian Scripture? And rejected others? Was there any authorization from Jesus to do what they had done?

Remember, Jesus and all his disciples were strictly adherent to the Law of Moses.

And Jesus never abolished/abrogate the perpetual validity of the Law of Moses.

5. To the Greco-Roman Pagans Dionysus was the Christ, who was believed to be: the son of God, son of virgin mother (Semele), born on 25th December, sacrificed life on the Cross for the redemption of sinners, descended into hell, resurrected from the dead on the 3rd day, then ascended to heaven and finally one day he will revisit this world to judge it. Paul have fabricated the Christian Theology exactly on the same pattern of Greco-Roman Paganism, but on the name of Jesus.

How Paul depicted Jesus is the exact replica of 'Pagan Christ Dionysus'.

Before Jesus and Dionysus there were other Christs in various people of the past with the same characteristics as of Jesus and Dionysus.

6. During Jesus' time only two, out of twelve tribes of Israel, were living in Roman occupied Palestine. Other 10 tribes were exiled and scattered into other nations outside of Palestine. **Many of whom forsook the religion of Torah and were converted to local Indigenous religions.** The two tribes inside Palestine were also influenced by many non-Torah religious customs. Many of whom were heavily imbued by the pre-dominant Hellenistic culture. Even their clergy and priests were corrupted and were derailed from the true teachings of the Mosaic Law.
7. **Jesus' mission was to take these Israeli people, who were lost from the teachings of Torah, back to it. It was never his mission to establish a new religion, like Christianity, which is detached from Torah.**
8. Jesus was nominated by God as the Israeli Messiah, as the promised Reformer, to call them back to the pure and pristine teachings of Torah. He never abolished the validity of Moses' Law. Rather he reiterated its perpetual validity of observance. Lifelong he practiced and preached the teachings of Torah and urged his disciples to attain eternal life and salvation thereby.
Jesus himself was not Christian, nor was any of his disciples. He never preached Christianity's tenets of: Original sin, Atonement through his blood, Resurrection from the dead etc.
9. His opponents, Jewish Clergy, tried to kill him through Crucifixion to prove him a liar and accursed of God thereby, to falsify him as the awaited Israeli Messiah. But by the help of Almighty God, ***Jesus survived the attempted murder plot, affirmed by many evidence from N.T. Bible.*** He then secretly migrated toward other nations where the ten lost Israeli tribes were exiled at the time.
10. To qualify his disciples to get into the Kingdom of God, Jesus urged them to excel other Jews in Torah observance, as he said, *"unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of God"* (MTT 5:20). This statement, in any sense, could not mean 'abolishment of validity of Torah observance'. Rather, refutes all motifs of Christianity altogether.
11. In the New Testament (N.T.) Bible there are numerous evidence, which confirm Jesus' survival of Crucifixion. But on the pretext of Paul's teachings the Christian Church tried to deny it and suppressing the truth. In any other article it would be discussed in detail.
12. Jesus was an itinerant preacher. He travelled extensively to reach and preach to the diaspora (means: dispersed) Israeli lost tribes, to convey them the pure and pristine teachings of Torah, and unite them thereby. He successfully created a Kingdom of God in the heart and soul of these lost Israeli tribes by taking them back to the adherence of Torah. ***Finally, at the age of 120 years he died a natural death in Srinagar***, capital of Jammu and Kashmir, the North-Western Indian Himalayan province. He was buried there, and his tomb still exists there.

Brief History of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel:

Israelites are the descendant of Jacob, the grandson of Patriarch Abraham. Jacob had another attributive name, **Israel**. He had twelve sons, from whom the twelve tribes of Israel were descended. **The people of Israel** comprise all of these twelve tribes.

The Israelites in Moses' leadership escaped (The Exodus) from the tyrannical slavery in Egypt under Pharaohs. The first Covenant was consummated between Moses and **Yahweh**, the Israeli national God. Moses died when the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness of Canaan. From 1200-1020 B.C.E. the Judges led them to their victories against their enemies.

In 1000 B.C.E. the Kingdom of Israel was formed by these twelve tribes. **Saul** was the first king. After the death of Saul these twelve tribes were split into two kingdoms. Two tribes formed the Southern Kingdom of Judea, having capital in Jerusalem. The remaining ten tribes formed the Northern Kingdom of Israel, having their capital in Samaria, and religious centre upon Mount Gerizim. The Samaritans denied the primacy of the Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem as the sole place of worship. Instead, they kept worshipping 'Yahweh' upon Mount Gerizim. Because, before the erection of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem in 1000-922 B.C.E., the primacy of the Temple on Mount Gerizim was established by Joshua ben Nun in 1290 B.C.E. (DEUT 11:29, JOSHUA 8:33). Though this was essentially the only religious difference between these two groups of people, it was enough for the Samaritans not to be considered Jews.

Thus, the Samaritans were hated and considered mongrels by the Judeans, though both have the same origin, **Israelite**. During the time of Jesus severe animosity persisted between these two groups of people.

- ❖ Samaritans were adherents of Torah; in large numbers they accepted Jesus as the Israeli Promised Messiah when he preached to them (John 4:39-41); because, like Jews, they are Israelites too, descendant of Jacob/Israel (John 4:12).
- ❖ King David of the southern kingdom of Judea conquered and annexed the northern Kingdom and established the 'United Kingdom of Israel', keeping the capital in Jerusalem.
- ❖ Solomon was the son and successor of King David.
- ❖ In 922 B.C.E. when Solomon died, again the kingdom was split into two, along the old fault line of two tribes against ten tribes.

In 721 B.C.E. the Northern Kingdom of ten tribes was invaded and destroyed by the Assyrian King Sargon- II. Assyrians enslaved and scattered many Samaritan people (i.e., the ten tribes of Israel, not other two tribes in Judea). During the next few centuries their fate was rolled over from one power player to the other. They were scattered into many nations of the time, such as Syria, Iraq, Iran, Central Asia, Afghanistan, North Indian Jammu-Kashmir, and even further north into Tibet.

- ❖ Many of them settled in India, such as Mumbai, Kerala, Tamil Nadu. The Pashtun tribal people of Northwestern Pakistan and adjacent Afghan territory are also of the Israeli origin.
- ❖ In Chennai, capital of southern Indian Tamil Nadu, a sizeable Israeli community from that Lost Ten Tribes were settled. **Judas Thomas**, the younger brother of Jesus was sent there to preach them Jesus' message. Still there is a Cathedral built upon the tomb of Judas Thomas, which is recognized and esteemed by the Christians in the area, and outside.

- ❖ These are few examples from the many where the ten lost tribes of Israel were scattered and later settled, as the consequence of the 721 B.C.E. Assyrian invasion upon them.
- ❖ Most of them never returned to their homeland, Israel.
- ❖ **These people are called the ten lost tribes of Israel.**

Till 597 B.C.E. the Southern Kingdom of Judaea having two tribes of Israel had survived as vassal state.

- ❖ In 587 B.C.E. **Jerusalem and its Temple** was destroyed and the populace was led into the captivity by Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar.
- ❖ In 538 B.C.E. the Persians defeated the Babylonians. The enslaved Judeans in Babylon helped the Persians in many ways against Nebuchadnezzar.
- ❖ In recognition, the Persians allowed and helped Judeans to return to Jerusalem and in rebuilding the Temple of Solomon therein. From then on, they were known as **Jews**, derived from the word **Judaeans**. The rebuilding of the Temple of Solomon was completed by 515 B.C.E.

When the Judeans/Jews returned from Babylonian Exile, they completely rejected the Samaritans and would not allow any participation in Jewish religious or national life. The Judeans, in their effort to expand their power, went so far as to destroy the Temple that the Samaritans had built on Mount Gerizim. They tried to force the Samaritans to accept their Orthodox Judaism. The intense bitterness between the two peoples deepened, and by the time of Jesus great animosity existed between them.

- ❖ In 4th century B.C.E. the Greek king Alexander the Great conquered Palestine from the Persians.
- ❖ In 63 B.C.E., 60 years before Jesus' birth, the Romans occupied Palestine from the Greeks.
- ❖ **3–5 B.C.E. Jesus was born in Roman occupied Palestine, where only two, out of twelve tribes of Israel, were living at the time. The other ten tribes were exiled and scattered in other different nations.**

Ref: *Jesus the Christ (A New Testament Portrait)* by: Thomas Zanzig, Saint Mary's Press, Christian Brothers Publications, Winona, Minnesota, USA; pp. 50-75.

The Messianic Prophecies:

The Messianic prophecies were solely about the '**restoration of the Israeli Nation**'. This 'restoration' was supposed to be done through rejuvenation of that religion explicit in the Law of Moses. The doer of this job according to these prophecies is called **Messiah**. To accomplish this job "coming of any divine/begotten son of God, or any dying – raising Atoner/Saviour" was not promised, as the Christian Church believe to be. In these prophecies the purported message was very simple and clear: that, whenever "the Israeli people" would go astray from the right path of God, i.e. when they will abandon the true teachings of Mosaic Law, a "**Messiah**" would appear to take them back to the pristine teachings of Mosaic Law.

**The Israeli Messiah was not ordained to die upon Cross for any atoning purpose.
He was not supposed to create any new religion, detached from the Law of Moses.**

Jesus of Nazareth was the claimant for that awaited Israeli Messiah, evidenced in MTT 16:13-17; JN1:49, 11:27 etc. During his time, from among 12 tribes of Israel, only 2 tribes were living in Palestine. Rest 10 tribes were exiled into many other nations.

That's why Jesus said, *"I have other sheep those are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. (JN 10:16 N.I.V. 1984).*

- ❖ The *"other sheep"* Jesus mentioned here **are the ten lost Tribes of Israel**, who were exiled from Palestine.
- ❖ Rationally, they could not and should not be the Gentiles, because Gentiles never were from the house of Israel.
- ❖ Thus, *"all the nations"* Jesus mentioned in MTT 28:19 shall be understood in this connotation. As the major portion of Israelites were scattered among other nations, that is why Jesus urged his companions to go to all such nations, in search of the lost Israelis, where they were living, and to preach them his message that he was appointed as Israeli awaited Messiah.

Christian Church are preaching to all nations- Jews and Gentiles- on wrong implication of the verse MTT 28:19. By this they have overruled Jesus' prohibition to preach his message to the Gentiles, as evidenced in MTT 10:5-6, where Jesus himself said, "Don't go to the **Gentiles** or the Samaritans, but only to the people of Israel – God's lost sheep". They are overruling Jesus' prohibition on the basis of wrong implication of the phrase "all nations or every nation" mentioned in MTT 28:19. If the Church were not imbued by the Hellenistic/Paganistic religion, they could find the "Right way" in the next verse MTT 28:20, where Jesus said, **"teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"**. **Jesus never commanded to preach his teachings to the Gentiles**. He urged his disciples to practice the teachings of Moses' Law. Which was also for the Israelite-exclusively. Chapter 28 in gospel of Matthew is about "The Risen Christ". But before his "supposed/assumed death and resurrection", did Jesus ever indicate that his teachings were ordained for "all nations of the world"? No, never. Rather, its opposite is true, explicit in MTT 10:5-6, 15:24. Then, why the risen Jesus **change** his goal: from the racial exclusiveness (MTT15:24) to the benevolence of Universalism (MTT 28:19)? It is, obviously, Self-contradictory.

In fact, the **change** was not done by Jesus, but by the Romanized Christian Church. They are insisting upon the literal interpretation of the phrase, "all nations" mentioned in MTT28:19, by neglecting its historical perspective, Jesus' prohibition (MTT 10:5-6), and his own practice. **Jesus never preached his teachings to any Gentile**. By circumspective reading of all these aforementioned points, the rightful interpretation of the phrase "all nations" in the verse MTT 28:19 would be: 'Go, then, to all such nations where Israeli peoples were living, and make them my disciples'.

Few examples of usage of the phrase "all nation" mentioned in N.T. Canon: These will clear the confusion created by the Church about this phrase.

- ❖ Jesus said, *"How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this (ISRAELI) people. They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to **all the nations**" (LK 1:23-24. N.I.V. (New International Version), 1984).*

According to Christian Church this prophecy was fulfilled by the Roman invasion, and destruction of Judea, when Jerusalem was burnt down, and Solomon's temple was ruined under Roman General Titus in 70 C.E. Jews were massacred, enslaved and exiled. They were taken as prisoners to many nations, within the Roman empire. If 'all the nations' in LK 1:23-24 be taken literally, it will contradict with historical facts, as there were many empires and nations who never took Israelites as prisoners.

- ❖ ACTS 2:5, N.I.V. 1984 narrates, *"Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven"*. Here the phrase **"Jews from every nation under heaven"** could not be taken literally. Because at that time Jews were exiled by the Romans within the Roman Empire. **And they were not exiled/living into every nation under heaven literally.**
- ❖ For more please see LK 2:1, 11:31; JN 12:9; ACTS 17:6, 19:27, 35, 24:5; DANIEL 4:1, 11; EZEKIEL 34:6; 1 KINGS 4:34; HABAKKUK 1:6; ZEPHANIAH 1:2,3,8 etc.

In all these listed references "all the world", "all nations", "all peoples", "to the end of the whole world", "whole earth" or "all the kings of the world" have been mentioned. If these are taken into literal sense, they would be meaningless. For example, LUKE 2:1; K. J. V. 1982 narrates, *"And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered"*. **Question is** how the decree of Roman Emperor could be applicable for **all the world**? mentioned in this verse. Understandably, here the gospel writer meant **"Roman world"** for **"all the world"**. That's why N.I.V. 1984 has replaced the translation of LK 2:1 **"all the world"** by **"entire Roman world"**.

RESTORATION OF ISRAELI NATION:

Israelites of Jesus' time, like their ancestors, believed that a time would come when the twelve tribes of Israel would be united once again to form a single united Israeli nation. Many Israeli prophets prophesied in this way:

- ❖ Prophet Jeremiah (late 7th – early 6th century B.C.E) prophesied: The Lord's Promise to **His People Israel of their restoration.**
The Lord, the God of Israel, said to me, *"Write down in a book everything that I have told you, because the time is coming when I will restore my people, Israel and Judah, I will bring them back to the land that I gave their ancestors, and they will take possession of it again. I, the Lord, have spoken"* (JEREMIAH 30:2-3, Good News Bible/T.E.V. 1976).
- ❖ The same theme has been explicitly expressed in ZEPHANIAH 3:13-16, 20; ZECHARIAH 8:1-12, 9:1-13, Ch. 12, 13, 14; ISAIAH 11:11-12, 27:13, 49:1-7; EZEKIEL 37:15-23; MICAH 5:1-5; and AMOS 9:11-15. If Jesus was the fulfilment of these Messianic prophecies, then his work-zone would be exclusively for the Israelites. In these prophecies only **Israel and Judah** have been mentioned as the work-zone for the Messiah. Exactly this sort of *exclusiveness* was echoed from the lips of Jesus when he responded to a non-Israeli woman's appeal and said, **"I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel"** (MTT 15:24; K.J.V. 1982).
 - In the N.I.V. 1984 and Good News Bible/T.E.V. 1976, the JEREMIAH 30 has been subtitled as **"The Restoration of Israel"**. This Chapter 30 deals with the Israelite, exclusively. **It does not include any Gentiles.** This also establishes the fact that, *the mission of Jesus was destined for the ISRAELITES, not for the Gentiles.*

- ❖ In JEREMIAH 31:31-34 the future new covenant was prophesied to be commemorated between the Lord God and People of Israel, **not with Gentiles**.
 - Nowhere in the **Law of Moses**, or in the **Prophets**, in the **Psalms**, or in the **long history of Israeli religious belief**, there was a single line of scripture which states that the Israeli Messiah has to suffer death upon Cross for the atonement of original sin committed by Adam, that he has to raise from the dead on the third day of crucifixion, that he has to ascend to heaven and descend therefrom, that he would be sent for the whole world, or that the Israeli Messiah will have to be a dying-raising-atonement saviour, and that he will establish a new religion detached from Torah. **There were no such prophecies at all.**

The New Testament books also attest that Jesus' mission is for the people of Israel, exclusively

- ❖ LK 1:33 – *“And he [Jesus] will reign over the house of Israel for ever.”*
 - It means: **Jesus will never reign over the Gentiles.**
- ❖ MTT 1:21 – *“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people [Israel] from their sins.”*
 - It means: He will not be the Saviour for the Gentiles.
 - For more please see MTT 2:2, 6; JOHN 1:31.
- ❖ LK 24:21 – Disciples/companions attested Jesus as the **redeemer for Israelites only**.
- ❖ JOHN 1:49 – Disciple Nathanael answered Jesus, *“Rabbi, you are the son of God; you are the king of ISRAEL”*.
- ❖ JN 12:13-15; (N.I.V. 1984) narrate: When Jesus was entering into Jerusalem, people took branches of palm trees and went out to welcome him, crying: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the king of **Israel**. Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, *“Do not be afraid, O daughter of **Zion**, see your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt”* (ZECHARIAH 9:9).
- ❖ MTT 15:24; (N.K.J.V. 1982) – Jesus himself attested, as one sent to the people of Israel, exclusively. As he said, ***“I was not sent except to the lost sheep of House of Israel.”***
- ❖ Jesus categorically forbade his twelve apostles to preach his teachings to the Gentiles. It is narrated as: These twelve apostles Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ***“Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel”*** (MTT 10:5-6, N.I.V. 1984).

From these prophecies it is obvious that ***Jesus of Nazareth was the Promised Israeli Messiah, sent by the God of Israel and for the people of Israel, exclusively.***

Those who are outsiders or Gentiles entering Jesus' territory were trespassers and violators. To emphasize this forbiddance for Gentiles, Jesus argued, *“It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs”* (MT 15:26). **He himself had created the demarcation between Israelites and Gentiles, which should not be violated.**

During Jesus' time only two Israeli tribes, out of twelve, were living in Palestine. The remaining 10 tribes were living in exile in different nations. They are called the diaspora/lost Israelis. Many of them renounced the religion of Torah and adopted the local indigenous religions.

They were lost in two different ways, politically and spiritually. Politically: they were forced to live in other nations. Spiritually: most of them abandoned the teachings of Torah and adopted other local indigenous religions. Jesus' mission was to take these derailed/lost Israeli people back to the Law of Moses. He was assigned to unite them spiritually, but not politically. That is why he was **less concerned about the Israeli political kingdom occupied by Romans-but was more concerned about the spiritual kingdom occupied by the corrupt Jewish clergy.** That is why Jesus urged his apostles to go to all the nations, where the diaspora/ lost/ derailed Israeli tribes were living at that time and to preach them his messages and therefore unite them spiritually.

Jesus would have been self contradictory if he had urged his disciples to preach his message to all nations, irrespective of Israelites and Gentile. Sayings of Jesus in MTT 10:5-6, 15:24 are directly contradictory to MTT 28:19. How it could be reconciled?

Paul was the one who opened the door for the Gentiles to enter into Christianity, as evidenced in ACTS 18:6, EPHESIANS 3:1-3 and ROM 11:13-14. Not only that, but he also concocted the synthetic theology of Christianity that Jesus was the Christ, who was to come to sacrifice his life on the cross for atonement of sin committed by Adam. Whereas none of these motifs was set as the pre-condition for the Israeli awaited Messiah. No such prophecy was there which confirms that the Israeli Messiah must die on the cross for any redemptive/atonement purpose.

No death on the cross, no resurrection from the dead was ordained for the Messiah. Then, why Jesus has to die on the cross for being the awaited Israeli Messiah? As Paul says, Jesus came to die on the cross for the forgiveness of sinners (ROM 3:21-26). **Jesus never prescribed 'forgiveness of sin through his blood', according to his own sayings recorded in N.T. Canon.**

FORGIVENESS OF SINS AS PAR HEBREW SCRIPTURE:

Regarding the forgiveness of sin in the Hebrew Scripture, God says, *"Yet you say, 'Why should not the son suffer for the iniquity of the father? When the son has done what is lawful and right, and has been careful to observe all My statutes, he shall surely live. The soul that sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. But if a wicked man turns away from all his sins which he has committed and keeps all My statutes and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness which he has done he shall live'"* (EZEKIEL 18:19-22, HOLY BIBLE, R.S.V. 1953). These verses completely and clearly negate and invalidate the Paul-prescribed doctrine of Atonement, what he said in ROMANS 3:21-26.

Jesus never abolished the validity of Torah or teachings of prophets, rather have affirmed its perpetual validity, evidenced in MTT 5:17-20. **Paul did not have any authority to overrule what Jesus himself affirmed as perpetual validity. By invalidating Torah, as evidenced in ROM 7:6 and 10:4, Paul have had overruled Jesus.**

- ❖ As Jesus never preached to any Gentile, he would not have urged his apostles to do the same. He himself had prohibited them to preach to the Gentiles, as evidenced in MTT 10:5-6.

- ❖ Jesus' apostles complied with that prohibition, evidenced in (ACTS 11:19). It is narrated there: Meanwhile, the believers who had been scattered during the persecution after Stephen's death traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria. **They Preached the word of God, but only to Jews.** (*Holy Bible, Gift & Award Edition, New Living Translation. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Carol Stream, Illinois, 2015*).

SCHISM: A Breach in the Unity of Church

Jesus survived the Crucifixion, not revived from the dead. He did not die upon the cross. It was not his mission to die upon cross for any atoning purpose. There was no prophecy in the Hebrew scripture which states that the Israeli Messiah would have to lay his life upon the cross to redeem the sinners. What the Romanized Christian Church have bequeathed the world about Jesus of Nazareth is a total fabrication. How they depicted Jesus, it is only a new spin of their old Roman Paganism.

Evidently, Jesus survived the Crucifixion. Then he migrated secretly outside Roman Empire to preach to the ten lost Tribes of Israel, because his mission was destined to unite all twelve Tribes. After his disappearance from Palestine his followers assembled themselves under the leadership of Jacob/James the Just, brother of Jesus. This was in pursuance of Jesus' command evidenced in **The Gospel of Thomas, saying number 12**. The disciples were asked to continue their missionary activities keeping their centre in Jerusalem. This was the first Church ever established by the companions of Jesus. This was called "JERUSALEM CHURCH". And it was many years before the appearance and infiltration of **Paul of Tarsus** into the band of Jesus' followers. Before his infiltration he was doing enmity toward Jesus overtly, but after this he was doing covertly.

In the likeness of their Messiah, the apostles were strictly adherent to the Torah. They all were Torah observant Jews, with a single difference from other Jews, that they did believe upon Jesus as the awaited Israeli Messiah, whereas other Jews did not.

Dr. Albert Schweitzer, D. Theol., D. Phil., D. Med, and a Nobel Peace prize winner writes, *"From (MATT 5:18) it is evident that Jesus did not break with the Law but took his stand upon it unreservedly. His followers, no doubt, broke with the Law later on. They did so, however, not in pursuance of a command of Jesus, but under pressure of circumstances, at the time when they were forced out of Judaism and obliged to find a new religion."*

He continues, *"Jesus shared the Jewish racial exclusiveness wholly and unreservedly. According to MATT 10:5 he forbade his disciples to declare to the Gentiles the coming of the kingdom of God. Evidently, therefore, his purpose did not embrace them. Had it been, otherwise, the hesitation of Peter in Acts 10 and 11, and the necessity of justifying the conversion of Cornelius, would be incomprehensible."*

Dr. Albert Schweitzer further states, *"On the context of MATT 28:19 is questionable, not only as a saying ascribed to risen Jesus, but also because it is universalistic in outlook, and because it implies the doctrine of Trinity, and consequently, the metaphysical divine Sonship of Jesus."* He continues, *"Baptism in the name of Jesus signified only that Jesus was the Messiah. For the only change which the teaching of Jesus made in their religion was that whereas they had formerly believed in a deliverer of Israel who was to come in the future, they now believed in a deliverer who was already Present".* He further says, *"The Lord's Supper, again, was no new institution, but merely an episode and the last Paschal Meal of the Kingdom, which was passing*

away, and was intended as an anticipatory celebration of the new Kingdom. A Lord's Supper in our sense, cut loose from the Passover, would have been inconceivable to Jesus, and not less so to his disciples."

Ref: *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*. Collier Books. Macmillan Publishing Company, New York, 1968, pp. 17-18.

- MTT 28:19 is a controversial verse. There are various Controversies about its authenticity as the genuine saying of Jesus. Many Biblical scholars have commented that the wording in this verse was composed and were put upon Jesus' lips later on.
- Contrary to this, there is no such controversy about MTT 10:5-6, 15:24, 26, 19:28; and LK 22:28-30.
- In MTT 19:28 (also in LK 22:28-30), T.E.V. 1979 Jesus said to the twelve apostles, "You can be sure that when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne in the New Age, then you twelve followers of mine will also sit on thrones, to rule the twelve tribes of Israel." From the sayings of Jesus in MTT 19:28, LK 22:28-30, few things become obvious:

- **His mission will remain for Israelites, exclusively, even during his second coming.**
- **His twelve apostles will also come with Jesus to sit in his presence, upon twelve thrones.**
- **The twelve apostles will also rule the twelve tribes of Israel, exclusively.**

Question arises: Where do you see any place, O the Gentiles for you, in Jesus' Kingdom?

- Jesus was sent by the God of Israel, for the salvation of Israelites. He, along with twelve disciples, will remain for Israelites, exclusively, *even in his second coming. There was no place and will be no place for any Gentiles.*

What would happen about **Judas Iscariot**, who was from among the twelve, who betrayed Jesus to his opponents? If Jesus' mission was to die upon cross for the Atonement of sinners, *as the Christian Church are preaching*, **why then Jesus was waiting to be betrayed by Judas Iscariot?** Instead, Jesus himself should have openly announce his mission clearly and loudly, in public by stating:

I am here to sacrifice my life upon cross to atone the sins committed by you; come forward and crucify me. He never said anything of the sort. **Not a single verse from the sayings of Jesus, recorded in the N.T. Canon could be found which affirms this doctrine of Atonement.** Rather, doctrine of Atonement was concocted by Paul and was foisted into Christianity by him. Jesus never prescribed anything like this for the forgiveness of sinners. **Moreover, the word "betray" connotes something which is against ones will.** Jesus' unwillingness to die upon the cross is explicitly evidenced in MK 14:35-36, MTT 26:36-39 and LK 22:41-45. All these evidence make it clear that: **Jesus' mission was not to lay his life on the cross for the atonement of sinners, as the Christian Church is preaching.**

JESUS SON OF GOD OR SON OF MAN:

Although the Israelites had diverse understandings about the nature and role of their Messiah, it is certain that they never considered their Messiah to be the divine son of God, as Christians understand him to be. **In the New Testament Canon Jesus himself never claimed to be son of God. But he himself claimed to be son of man.** According to the N.T. Canon 79 times Jesus has claimed to be 'son of man', but never as the 'son of God'.

MK 1:11 and LK 9:35 states, when Jesus had completed the baptism under John the baptiser, a heavenly voice said, *"you are my son whom I love; with you I am well pleased"*. This suggests that on the day of his baptism Jesus became the son of God, and at that time he was around 30 years of age. When Jesus used to walk on the streets of Galilee, nobody called him "Son of God". Bart D. Ehrman says: In one early (N.T.) manuscript and several Latin ones, however, the (heavenly) voice says (to Jesus) something strikingly different: **"You are my son, today I have begotten you"**. Today I have begotten you! Does not it suggest that- his day of baptism was the day on which Jesus became the 'son of God'?

Ref: *MISQUOTING JESUS*, HarperCollins publishers, USA, 2005, p. 159.

Therefore, it is obvious that Jesus became the son of God at his 30 years of age, but not since he was born. He became the 'son of God' through his righteous deeds, and prescribed the same for others through their own righteous deeds, as he said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God", explicit in MTT 5:9.

It is obvious that "sons of God" mentioned here is metaphorical. The son could represent the father. Every human in general, and the Prophet/Messiah/Messenger in particular, is representing God. **In that connotation Jesus was one of the sons of God – but not the only son of God.** Therefore, Jesus was commissioned as son of God at around 30 years of age, but he was not son of God by birth, as Christians believe him to be.

OTHER MESSIAH CLAIMANTS BEFORE AND AFTER JESUS:

History reveals, before and after Jesus there were other Messiah-claimants, or whom people titled as Messiah. Before him were Hezekiah the bandit chief, Simon of Peraea, Athronges the shepherd boy, and Judas the Galilean. After Jesus in 36 C.E. there was another claimant of Messiah known only as The Samaritan. They gathered large number of fire-brand followers, adopted militaristic ways to terminate the Roman occupation of Jewish Palestine. Pontiac Pilate, a Roman Governor, faced and crushed many of their movements of freedom with Roman military might.

But Jesus and his mission both were explicitly different from the other Messiah- claimants by: nature, purpose, belief, and most importantly, **the way of achieving the goal.** Other claimants were with the militaristic view to liberate the Jews politically. Jesus' view was purely spiritualistic, to liberate his people from the bondage of Satan, by reforming them into a Godly people. Governor Pilate was fully aware and informed about the nature of Jesus' Messianic claim and his relevant activities. He understood that Jesus and his mission was not a threat to the Roman Empire or Emperor. Rather, it was purely spiritual kingdom that Jesus was preaching to his people, **Israelite**, as evidenced in JN 18:36, where Jesus made it very explicit, **"My kingdom is not of this world"**.

Paul probably was not unaware about other Messiahs. Question may arise then, why did he not devise his own Atoning theology (Christianity), on any other Messiah-claimant's name? Because, unlike other claimants, there were similarities between Jesus and the older Christs like Dionysus, Mithras, Horus, etc. Their followers viewed these Christs as: sons of virgin mothers, died on cross for the redemption of sinners and resurrected from dead. If the incident of crucifixion did not happen with Jesus, Paul could not fabricate Christian theology upon Jesus' name. The event of crucifixion helped Paul to fabricate motifs of Christianity.

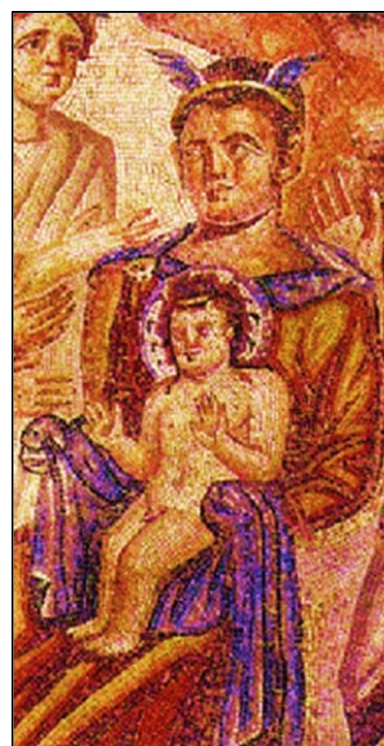
Paul found in Jesus three similarities with the other Christs of the ancient world. Jesus was son of virgin mother, supposedly he was killed on the Cross, and was resurrected from the dead. **In fact, his revival from deep trance was mistaken as resurrection from the dead.** With the help of these three points from Jesus' life, Paul concocted the Christian Theology, exactly on the same pattern of other Christs pre-dating Jesus. Gradually other motifs of Christianity were grafted upon it from Paganism, through the exegesis of 4th & 5th Centuries Roman Catholic Church.

Though Jesus had survived the attempted murder plot, a rumour was unleashed that he was killed on the cross. This rumour was proved as 'blessings in disguise'. By this rumour his opponents were kept at bay from his whereabouts, but on the other side his trusted followers (Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus the great Physician, and few other Essene therapeutics) utilized it as a great opportunity to heal Jesus' wounds, in the undetectable seclusion of the sepulchre from any prying eyes, where Jesus' unconscious body was kept. On Sunday early morning Jesus left the sepulchre, in disguise of a gardener, evidenced in JOHN 20:15. Jesus took this covert way of disguise to avert further arrest from his enemies. **This is the reason why Jesus' body was not found in his burial chamber.** After this he never exposed himself in public, rather, was always in hiding from one place to another. Finally, he bade farewell to his disciples and secretly migrated toward those areas- outside Roman Empire- where the other lost Israeli Tribes were exiled.

During his ministry in Palestine Jesus might have expressed his concern about his safety due to the opposition, hostility and enmity to him from the Jewish clergy. Because his teachings were direct threat to the vested interest of this derailed and corrupt Jewish clergy. Thus, it was their machination to kill him through crucifixion. They understood, **killing Jesus through crucifixion would serve twofold purposes simultaneously:**

- They would get rid of Jesus, the claimant of Israeli Messiah.
- He would be proven as a liar and accursed of God according to Torah (anyone who is hung/killed on cross is under God's curse, DEUT 21:23), thus falsify him as the Israeli Messiah thereby.

These were their hidden motives to kill Jesus through crucifixion. Killing through Crucifixion was the only way how the opponent Jews could falsify Jesus as Israeli promised Messiah. Therefore, **Jesus' death upon cross will disqualify him as the awaited Israeli Messiah.** No Messianic prophecy affirms that the Israeli Messiah must die upon the cross. But for Pagan Christs it was mandatory to die upon cross. It was one of their requisite characteristics. Dionysus, Mithras, Adonis, Horus etc., those who were considered as Saviours/ Christs before Jesus, were also believed to have died upon cross for atonement of sinners.



Mosaic from 'The House of Dionysus' in Paphos, Cyprus, c. 4th century CE.
This divine child with halo may look like the infant Jesus but is the Pagan saviour Dionysus.
(The Jesus Mysteries, Freke & Gandy)

PAUL'S SHIFTING FROM ISRAELITES TO GENTILES:

ACTS 18:6 reveals that Paul have had changed his goal of preaching from Jews to Gentiles not according to any command of Jesus, but when the Jews opposed and reviled him then he changed his course of action. **'The concept of Jesus the Christ'** was a creation of Paul. To allure more converts to 'an action-less belief', it was necessary for him to preach that Jesus as the Christ died on the cross to atone

the sinners. His goal was to transform Jesus from Israeli Messiah into the Pagan Christ by concocting few similarities between Jesus and other Pagan Christs. **Thus, the Israeli concept of Messiah was substituted by the concept of Pagan Christ. Many motifs of Jesus' teachings were substituted by Pagan dogmas. Paul's Christ was not the Torah adherent Jewish Jesus of Nazareth, rather, it was the dying-raising-atoning- saviour Pagan Christ of Greco – Roman mythology. The Gospel which Paul preached was not the Gospel which Jesus preached and practiced, lifelong; rather, it was the erroneous gleet what he gleaned from the Christ within him (GALATI 1:11-12).** Paul was born in Tarsus of Asia Minor (now Turkiye) in Pagan Roman Empire, in a diaspora Jewish family, heavily imbued into imbroglio of Hellenistic culture.



'Sarcophagus with the triumph of Dionysus', discovered in Rome, Italy, ca. 190 CE. An old man brings the holy child Dionysus a large cross as an omen of his ultimate fate. Such a cross was carried around in Athens during a three-day festival celebrating the death and resurrection of the Pagan godman. (The Jesus Mysteries, Freke & Gandy)

CANONIZATION OF NEW TESTAMENT:

Jesus preached orally, and himself wrote nothing. His teachings are the interpretation of Mosaic Law with newly and timely attitudes. He never abolished the perpetual validity of Mosaic Law. Rather, reiterated it, evidenced in MTT 5:17-20. Long after his time, his oral teachings were collected from **hearsay**. And in 398 C.E., 27 books, out of so many others, were selected as Christian Creed, and placed into N.T. Canon. **These are not eye- witness narratives, but hearsay evidence.** These books were written in Greek by the Greek speaking Hellenized Jews, with the Hellenistic interpretations of Jesus' teachings, so as to make it more palatable both to their fellow Hellenized Jews and to their Pagan Gentile neighbors. **Practically every word ever written about Jesus of Nazareth was written by people who, like Stephen and Paul, never actually knew Jesus when he was present in Palestine.**

Bart D. Ehrman [world renowned Biblical scholar, who chairs the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA] writes about the canonization of New Testament Gospels:

A significant moment occurred in the history of the formation of the N.T. canon in the late 4th century. It was in the **year 367 C.E.** Athanasius the powerful bishop of Alexandria, Egypt, proposed in strict terms the contours of the N.T. canon. This was the first time anyone of record had indicated that **the 27 books that we now have in our N.T. canon, and only those 27 books, should be considered as Scripture. Moreover, Athanasius insisted that other 'heretical' books not to be read. But other Christian groups proposed other sets of books as N.T. Canon.**

- ❖ Even from Athanasius' home Church in 4th century C.E., **Didymus the Blind** proposed something different. He claimed that 2 PETER was a forgery, that was not to be included in the Canon. Moreover, Didymus quoted other books, including "THE SHEPHERD OF HERMAS" and "THE EPISTLE OF BARNABAS" as Scripture.
- ❖ In the early 5th century C.E. the **Church in Syria** finalized it's N.T. Canon, and they excluded 2 PETER, 2 & 3 JOHN, JUDE, REVELATION from it, making a Canon of 22 books.
- ❖ The **Church in Ethiopia** eventually accepted the 27 books of Athanasius – **but added four others**, not otherwise widely known – like SINODOS, THE BOOK OF CLEMENT (not 1 or 2 CLEMENT), THE BOOK OF THE COVENANT, and THE DIDASCALIA; **for a Canon of 31 books.**
- ❖ Other Churches had yet other Canons.
- ❖ **For there never has been complete agreement on the (contents of N.T.) Canon throughout the Christian world.**

Ehrman writes: The books that eventually came to be collected into the sacred Canon were – written by variety of authors – over a period of sixty to seventy years – in different places – for different audiences. Other books were written in the same period. Only a fraction of the early Christian writings was included in the sacred (N.T.) Canon. But why were these 27 books? Why not others? Who decided which books to include, (or to exclude)? On what basis, and when?

The process of canonization of Athanasius proposed 27 books didn't come to a definitive conclusion through any official ratification at a single Church Council, called for this purpose-exclusively. There was no official Churchwide pronouncement on the matter until the Council of Trent held in the mid-sixteenth century – which as a Roman Catholic Council, was binding only on Roman Catholics. Thus, the Canon of the N.T. was ratified by widespread consensus – rather than by official proclamation.

Ref: *LOST CHRISTIANITIES*, Oxford University Press, New York, 2003, pp.54, 229, 230, 231.

In his famous work, **MIQUOTING JESUS – The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why**, Bart D. Ehrman says about the authenticity of the N.T. books/manuscripts:

- ❖ It is one thing to say that the originals were inspired, but the reality is that we do not have the originals. So, saying they were inspired does not help much, unless one can reconstruct the Originals.
- ❖ Not only we do not have the Originals, we do not have the first copies of the Originals.
- ❖ We do not even have copies of the copies of the Originals,
- ❖ Or Copies of the copies of the copies of the Originals.
- ❖ **What we have are the copies made many centuries later.**
- ❖ **And these copies all differ from one another in many thousand places.**

He concludes, the N.T. Bible are **not** fully inspired, inerrant words of God, but very human book. Just as human scribes had copied and changed the text of Scripture. So too had human authors originally written the texts of Scriptures.

He further writes:

- ❖ During 2nd & 3rd centuries C.E. there was * no agreed-upon N.T. Canon, and * no agreed-upon Christian theology.
- ❖ Instead, there was a wide range of diversity, * diverse Christian groups asserting diverse theologies, * based on diverse written texts, * all claiming – written by apostles of Jesus.

Some of these groups believed:

- ❖ Christ's death on Cross brought Salvation.
- ❖ **Others said, Christ's death (upon Cross) had nothing to do with Salvation of the world.**
- ❖ **Yet, other groups insisted that Christ (Jesus) never actually died (upon Cross).**

Ref: *MISQUOTING JESUS*, HarperCollins Publishers, USA, 2005, PP.10,11, 35,153.

In the N.T. Canon (Catholic version) 27 books were accepted. So many other books were rejected. None of them was **written** by Jesus, though he was a literate person, (JN 8:6-8; MK 6:2). **Neither he dictated any body to write on his behalf**, nor any of these books was **overseen by him** for their genuineness. **Therefore, how one could be sure that, what these books contain are Jesus' genuine teachings?**

All these books were written after Paul's 14 letters, included in N.T. Canon. Their narratives are deeply influenced by Paul's letters. His conception of Christianity was anathema before the Jerusalem Temple's destruction in 70 C.E. But afterward his notion of a new religion – free from the Temple of Jerusalem – free from the burden of Torah observance – divorced from Judaism, was enthusiastically embraced by the Pagan converts throughout the Pagan Roman Empire. **Every theological aspect was seen/shown through the eyes of Paul.** Consequently, within the first half of the 2nd century C.E., the Pauline Christians surpassed the followers of Jesus in number.

Hence, in 398 C.E. in the Council of Hippo Regius, the bishops chose to include in the N.T. Canon – **One** letter from **James** (brother of Jesus) – **Two** letters from **Peter** – **Three** letters from **John** (the beloved disciple) – and **Fourteen** letters from **Paul**. **So, more than half of the 27 books Canon are either by or about Paul. In the book of ACTS out of 28 chapters, 20 are about Paul.** This should not be surprising that Christianity, after the Roman destruction of Jerusalem Temple in 70 C.E., **was almost exclusively a gentile religion. So, it needed a gentile theology. And that is precisely what Paul provided.**

The Disciples' Expectations About Their Messiah

What was disciples' expectations about their Messiah? **LK 24:21** reveals the answer explicitly. LK 24:13-27 make the episode clearer. As on the 3rd day of crucifixion, two of Jesus' disciples (one was Cleopas) were walking to the village named Emmaus. They were talking about everything what had happen recently with Jesus.

Suddenly Jesus himself appeared and started walking with them, but they could not recognize him. It could be due to his disfiguration from the severe ordeal upon cross, bleeding, hunger, thirst, exhaustion and pain. It could also be because of camouflaging or disguising himself to avert further arrest of Jews. Even Mary Magdalene had failed on that morning to recognize Jesus due to the same reasons, **when she mistook Jesus for a gardener**, as evidenced in JOHN 20:15.

Then these two disciples, without knowing that it was Jesus, were sharing their grief with him, and said *"But we had hoped that he was **the Messiah/prophet**, who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago"* (LK 24:21; Holy Bible, New Living Translation, 2015, U.S.A.). LK 24:22-23 reveals that the disciples mistakenly thought, their Messiah Jesus was killed on the **cross. And to them, with the death of Jesus upon cross, their hope of Israel's redemption / salvation also died.**

How come!! Paul, after so many years of Crucifixion, was prescribing the salvation of Israel based on Jesus' death upon cross, as stated in 1CORINTHIANS 15:3-5. Whereas Jesus' companions were totally shattered and had lost hope of Israel's redemption altogether due to the supposed death of Jesus on cross, explicit in LK 24:13-27.

O good God! By the same death of Jesus

- **Paul saw and shew the Salvation, whereas,**
- **The companions saw the shattering of Salvation.**

Selucas! Selucas! (Greek word for wonderment)

Note, **Elaine Pagels**, renowned historian of religions says, "Paul after about twenty years of Jesus' death started "the gospel", which he says, "I too received". The gospel he meant, stated in 1CORINTHIANS 15: 3-4.

Ref: *Beyond Belief*, Random House of Canada, Toronto, 2003, Page 5.

If Jesus' mission was to die upon cross for the Atonement / Salvation of sinners, his disciples should not have lost hope of their redemption due to his crucifixion, which is obvious in LK 24:21. Rather they should have been jubilant. Contrary to this, his disciples were wailing and lamenting upon Jesus' crucifixion (LK 23:27). Moreover, Jesus himself was not willing to die upon the cross (MK 14:34-39; MTT 26:36-44). Even, while he was nailed on the cross, he was shouting, (in Hebrew) "*Eli, Eli, la'ma sabach-tha'ni*" (means, *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?* Evidenced in MTT 27:46). This statement totally disproves the wrong notion that Jesus' mission was to die upon cross for the atonement of sinners.

Paul – what he had done to the teachings of Jesus

He opened the door for the Gentiles to enter into the religion of Jesus (Ephesians 3:1, 2), though it was prohibited for them according to the command of Jesus (MTT 10:5-6, 15:24).

Acts 18:6-7 reveals that Paul did it due to his irate emotions against the Jews when they opposed and reviled him. He was enraged and said to them, "*From now on I will go to the Gentiles.*" Jesus and all his companions were opposed, reviled, tortured, and maligned severely by the opposing Jews. But Jesus' response was neither to sever relations with the Israelites, nor to go to the Gentiles. The Torah adherent Jesus as the Israeli Messiah was not befitting to Paul's Hellenized mind. He needed a Paganized face of Jesus. And that's why his Hellenized mind have created the Pagan version of Jesus as Christ.

Paul said:

- ❖ "*I, Paul, the Prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles*" (Ephesians 3:1, 2).
- ❖ "*I am speaking now to you Gentiles: as long as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I will take pride in my work. **Perhaps I can make the people of my own race jealous**, and so be able to save some of them*" (T.E.V. 1979, Romans 11:13-14). Here Paul intended to save some of his own race at the cost of Gentiles.

What a flagrant example of hypocrisy or/and racist abhorrence!

- ❖ Paul was violating Jesus' prohibition and was distorting his teachings. In doing so, he was not unaware of his own evils. That is why he wrote, "***If through my falsehood** God's truthfulness abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner?*" (ROMANS 3:7, RSV, TEV, KJV).

- **Thus, Paul himself had confessed his own falsehood.**

- But God is far above the need of falsehood. Through falsehood how God's glory could be abounded? What Paul had thought to abound God's glory through his own falsehood, it itself is a falsehood. Because God is the One, absolutely independent, and besought of all.

Paul never had any opportunity to keep Jesus' company. He never had any firsthand knowledge about the innate nature of Jesus' teachings. Rather, his mind was heavily imbued by the dominant Greco-Roman Paganism. That's why their theological differences are so immense. Rather, they are opposing and negating to each other. Here are few examples:

- ❖ Jesus said, *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law of Moses and the teachings of the Prophets"* (MTT 5:17).
 - Paul said, *"Now we are free from the Law of Moses"* (Romans 7:6).
- ❖ Jesus said, *"Remember that as long as heaven and earth last, not the least point nor the smallest thing of the Law will be abolished until all is accomplished"* (MTT 5:18).
 - Paul said, *"Christ is the end of the Law"* (Rom 10:4).

Paul never presented any biblical reference, neither any quotations from Jesus, nor any other justification to prove why Christ is the end of the Law. It was only based on Paul's sayings.

Paul said, *"To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law"* (1Corinthians 9:20-21; N.I.V. 1984). Are these the examples of "Righteousness" or of "Hypocrisy"?

On the Matter of Salvation – Jesus versus Paul

Salvation prescribed by **Jesus**:

- ❖ By becoming an ardent observer of TORAH, evidenced in (MTT 5:20-48).
 - As Jesus says, *"For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of Pharisees and the teachers of the Law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven"* (MTT 5:20, N.I.V. 1984).
- ❖ By becoming kind /benevolent to the poor, explicit in LK 19 :2-10.

The example of Zacchaeus narrated in LK 19:2-10, explicitly stating the ways of achieving **salvation prescribed by Jesus**: Zacchaeus was Roman chief tax collector. The tax collectors used to extort commoners to gain more money. Thus, he was hated by the Jews as a sinner. Once Jesus appeared to him as an unexpected guest, but he was well-received by Zacchaeus. By seeing this, people started grumbling about how and why Jesus became guest of such a sinner. Upon people's criticism Zacchaeus declared that he would donate half of his possessions to the poor, and four times the amount of money if he had extorted from his victims. By observing this **Jesus declared, "Salvation has come to this house today"**, evidenced in LK 19: 9. **Note that in this instance or at any other time, Jesus never set his blood as a pre-condition to get salvation.**

The fact is that, **in the entire N. T. Canon there is not a single verse from the sayings of Jesus, where he himself had confirmed: 'Forgiveness from God could only be granted after or because of his death upon Cross'. Rather, "forgiveness from God through Jesus' blood" was prescribed by Paul, expressed in ROMANS 3:23-25.**

Jesus' mission was not to create a new religion, but to rejuvenate that religion based on the Law of Moses. As he said, *"Do not think that I have come to do away with the Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets. I have not come to do away with them, but to make their teachings come true"* (MTT 5:17; T.E.V. 1976). Jesus ensured the everlasting validity of Torah observance (MTT5:18), though Paul and the Christendom believe that Christ is the end of the Law of Moses/Torah (Romans 10:4).

DEUTERONOMY 21:23 reveals anyone who is hung/killed on a tree/cross is under God's curse. According to this verse Jesus would be proved 'accursed of God' if he died on the cross, **and the accursed of God can not be the Messiah. Therefore, death upon cross disqualifies Jesus as the awaited Israeli Messiah, but raises him to the level of Christ, like other Christs before him, such as Dionysus, Mithras, Horus, etc.**

Paul never presented a direct quotation of any sayings of Jesus in support of his Christian Theology. Paul's religious ideology is Hellenistic and Paganistic, not based upon the Torah. His *Christ* is not the *Jesus of Nazareth*, but whom he gleaned in his own thought under the influence of Paganism. Whereas Jesus' religious ideology is Judaist and based on the Torah.

Before Paul many tyrants had tried to destroy Judaism i.e. the Torah based religion; but did not succeed. For example, Antiochus Epiphanes, the Greek ruler of Seleucid empire in 167 B.C.E. outlawed the possession of Torah, banning such practices as dietary laws, male circumcision, and observing Sabbath. He desecrated the Temple of Solomon by erecting a Greek Idol therein. This resulted in a revolt by the Maccabeans, and in 164 B.C.E. they succeeded in capturing Jerusalem and the Temple. To commemorate this victory, the Hanukkah Festival was introduced by them.

But by arguments Paul accomplished his goal, i.e., destroying Torah, what Antiochus Epiphanes (175-163 B.C.E.) had tried to achieve by force but was unsuccessful. In the 4th century C.E. the Pagan Roman emperor Constantine accepted Christianity because, it is a religion detached from Torah, but conforming the common Hellenistic culture and religion. Before their conversion, the Pagans used to believe in Dionysus as son of God, as their Christ. Through conversion the Romans believed upon Jesus, exactly in the same pattern how they used to believe on Dionysus. So, before and after their conversion to Christianity there was no difference in their belief structure. **Dionysus' name was replaced by the name of Jesus, but their belief structure remained as it was. Thus, the Roman Paganism reappeared with a new name – the Roman Catholicism.** Emperor Constantine was the key architect of this scheme. It was a "win-win game" to meet his political agenda, to keep united "his would be falling apart Roman Empire".

Concepts of Christ and Messiah

The concept of 'Jesus the Christ' was the creation of Paul. In fact, Jesus was the promised Israeli Messiah. He certainly was not the dying-raising-atoning Christ. The definition of "Christ" and that of "**Messiah**" are not exactly the same.

The word "**Christ**" derived from the Greek word "Christos". It connotes – a divine being – a cosmic figure – eternally co-existent with God – son of God – equal to God – of same substance as God – the reincarnated God in human form – born in the womb of virgin mother on 25th of December - sacrificing life upon the cross for the atonement of sinners – resurrects

from the dead on the 3rd day after crucifixion – ascends to his eternal celestial abode – and finally, one day will revisit this world to judge it.

Before Jesus, the Greco- Roman pagans used to believe upon Dionysus, and even before them ancient Egyptians believed upon Horus as dying-raising-atoning-saviour Christ.

The word “**Messiah**” is derived from the Hebrew. It connotes a liberating leader of Israeli people, exclusively - who will play the catalytic roll to re-establish the Israeli Kingdom – a descendent of David – who will take the Israelites back to their lost might, glory and prosperity, prophesied in (ZACHARIAH 9:9-10).

Ref: (1) *JESUS THE CHRIST*, Thomas Zanzig, Saint Mary's Press, Minnesota, 2008, pp.10-11.

(2) *HOW JESUS BECAME CHRISTAIN*, Barrie Wilson, Ph. D., Vintage Canada, 2009, p. 271.

Most importantly, the Messiah would be a human being, not God nor son of God. It was not destined for the Israeli Messiah to die on the cross for any atoning purpose, or to resurrect from the dead, or ascending heaven and later descend to this world. Therefore, the concept of Israeli Messiah and that of the Greco-Roman Pagan Christ are not the same. In the 4th century C.E. when Christianity was Romanized the Roman Christian Church purposely assimilated these two different and opposing concepts into one.

The process of transforming Jesus from Israeli Messiah into the Atoning Christ was started by Paul. The foundation blocks had been laid down by Paul upon which the future edifice of Christianity would be built, with elaborated theological exegesis of 4th and 5th centuries C.E. expounded by the Romanized Christian Church. In fact, Christianity is the exact replica of preceding Paganism which was dominant in the Pagan Roman Empire. Pauline Christianity is another version of the old, familiar Pagan cultic religion, dressed up in a new name. How Paul had depicted Jesus as Christ is no less than any other Pagan Christs like Horus, Dionysus, Orpheus, Bacchus, Mithras, etc.

For Paul the Christ Jesus was a pre-existent being in the form of a God and presented in these motifs:

- Who emptied himself taking on the form of a slave, being born in human likeness (Philippians 2:6, 7). More than human, Paul's Christ Jesus is a divine being,
- Who existed prior to and after his Earthly span of life,
- Begotten son of God, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one in Being with the Father, through him all things were made. For us men and for our Salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the virgin Mary, and became man.

Ref: Excerpt from **The Nicæan Creed**, oft recited during Christian liturgies.

- Though mother is a mortal virgin, but paternity was ascribed to the Holy Ghost,
- Was born in a cave or humble cattle-shed on 25th December, before three shepherds,
- Magians from east paid visit and obeisance to baby Christ,
- Who offers his followers the chance to be born again through the rites of baptism,
- Turns water into wine at a marriage ceremony,
- Rides triumphantly into the town on a donkey while people wave palm leaves to honour him,
- He died upon cross at Easter time to atone the sins of the world,
- After death he descends to hell, then on the third day he rises from the dead,
- Then he ascends to heaven in glory,

- His followers await his return as the judge during the last days,
- His death and resurrection are celebrated by a ritual meal of bread and wine which symbolize his body and blood.

In short, Paul's view of the Christ removed the Israeli conception of the Messiah from its Israeli matrix and plunked it into the Gentile one.

Tom Harpur notes the larger dimension of the Christ figure in Paul's thought: Since Paul was, above all things, a communicator par excellence, he spoke to the people of his time in the mystical language they understood – the vernacular of the Mystery Religions. All his language about being “in Christ” or having “Christ in you” reflects the current Hellenic theosophy and philosophy. It is really Orphic – Platonic – Mystery cultism, almost pure Hindu or Vedic yoga mysticism, with no immediate reference to the Gospel life of Jesus at all.

Ref: *The Pagan Christ*, Thomas Allen Publishers, Toronto, 2004, p.169.

Paul had imitated these motifs of Christianity not from ex-nihilo. Rather, evidently from Paganism, predominant and popular religion in the Roman Empire.

Here is a list of some other ancient Christs, whose characteristics were exactly same with that of Jesus as Christ in Christianity created by Paul:

Name	Time period	Characteristics
Horus in Egypt	More than 4500 years B.C.E.	Born of a virgin mother, Isis, on 25 th of December, in a cave or animal shed. He was revered as: Son of God, sacrificed his life at Easter time upon cross for the atonement of sinners, and was raised on the 3 rd day from the dead. He offers his followers the chance to be born again through the rite of baptism. He turned water into wine at a marriage ceremony. He rides triumphantly into a town on a donkey while people wave palm leaves to honour him. He descended to hell on the 3 rd day, he was resurrected from the dead and ascended to heaven in glory. Followers await his return as the judge during the last days. His death and resurrection were celebrated by a ritual meal of bread and wine which symbolize his body and blood.
Zoroaster in Persia	1500-1200 years B.C.E.	Born of a virgin; popular in ancient Persia.
Krishna in India	Around 1200 years B.C.E.	Hindu deity; reincarnated god. Born of a virgin mother, Devaki. During infancy his life was threatened by a tyrant king, like infant Jesus' life was threatened by Herod, King of Judaea. Both of them fled for their safety, during their infancy.
Indra	700 B.C.E.	Born of a virgin in Tibet.
Dionysus in Greece	7 th century B.C.E.	Son of a virgin mother, Semele. Son of God, born on 25 th of December in a cave or animal shed. Sacrificed his life on the cross for the atonement of sinners and resurrected on the 3 rd day from the dead. Offered his followers the chance to be born again through the rite of baptism. He turned water into wine in a marriage ceremony. Other characteristics of this Greek Christ

		were the same to that of Egyptian Christ. Dionysus had many other names, such as Icchos, Bassareus, Bromis, Euios, Sabazius, Zagres, Yhyoneus, Bacchus, Orpheus, etc. The Greek sage Pythagoras travelled to Egypt in 673 B.C.E., stayed there for 22 years, and learned mathematics and Egyptian mystery religion of Horus-Osiris from temple monks there. He introduced the Egyptian mathematics and the mystery religion of Horus to his fellow Greeks. Later his followers transformed the Egyptian Horus into Greek indigenous deity Dionysus as their own godman or Christ .
Gautama Buddha	600 years B.C.E.	Born of a virgin mother, Maya, in an asexual manner, in Nepal.
Adonis		Assyrian-Babylonian godman; born of virgin mother Ishtar.
Mithras in Persia	Around 600 years B.C.E.	Born of virgin mother on 25 th of December. Son of God, died upon tree/cross for atonement of sinners, resurrected on the 3 rd day from the dead, ascended to heaven and will revisit the world.
Attis	200 years B.C.E.	Born of a virgin mother, Nama, in Phrygia, in central Asia Minor, which is Turkey today.
Quirinus		Another Pagan Roman god, a saviour like Adonis or Dionysus, born of a virgin mother.

Ref: *The Jesus Mysteries*, Timothy Freke & Peter Gandy, Harper Collins Publishers, London, UK, 2000, pp. 4-6.

Mithraism was a Syrian offshoot of the more ancient Persian cult of Zoroaster. In 67 B.C.E. it was introduced into the Pagan Roman Empire. Its doctrines included baptism, a sacramental meal, belief in eternal life, a dying-raising-atoning god as a mediator between men and God, last judgement, and heaven and hell.

The Romans introduced customary use of candles, incense, bells and other Pagan traditions into Christianity. The true teachings of Jesus practiced by the Jerusalem Church had lacked most of these Pagan trappings. These were added much later by Romans to create a hybrid theology. In fact, Christianity after the Roman destruction of Jerusalem and its temple in 70 C.E., was almost exclusively a Gentile religion. So, it needed a Gentile theology and that is precisely what Paul have provided. This Pauline concept of Jesus as Christ (but not Jesus as Israeli Messiah) was reiterated in the Nicaean Council held in 325 C.E. under the strict control of Constantine, the king of Pagan Roman empire.

THE NICAEAN CREED:

The Nicaean Creed was formulated in the Nicaean council in 325 C.E., which again was reiterated in the council of Constantinople held in 381 C.E.

- The Nicaean Creed positioned Jesus as Christ, as God's only begotten son, but ascribed paternity of Jesus to the Holy Ghost.
- It skips over his life's teachings and moves quickly to his death, resurrection and his status today in heaven and his revisiting Earth soon to judge mankind. It ends with an affirmation of the Church.

But in the Nicæan Creed:

- where are the central teachings of Jesus, explicitly mentioned in MTT 5:17-48, 19:17-21; MK 10: 17-21; LK 5:14 and so on?
- Where is that powerful message about “**kingdom of God**”?
- What about “**Jesus’ Sermon on the mount**” with its extended reinterpretation of Torah observance as mentioned in MTTHEW 5, 6 and 7, and so on?

Everything Jesus taught in his parables or in his sermon on the mount is bypassed here, but everything prescribed by Paul is included in it. The Nicæan Creed is totally aligned with the teachings of Paul, which is synonymous to Greco-Roman Paganism, but is in total contradiction with Jesus’ teachings. To remove any doubt, compare **the text of the Nicæan Creed with the teachings of Jesus**, elaborated in MTT 5, 6, 7, 8:4, 19:17-21; MK 10:17-22; LK 9:1-6, 10:25-37; and so on. You can not bypass, but “will feel” the obvious differences, and contrast contradictions between them. **The Nicæan Creed is neither the creed or belief of Jesus, nor of his disciples whom he taught directly. Rather, it is in a new shape of the old Greco-Roman Paganism.**

The Nicæan Council of 325 C.E. had settled another serious disputation **about the nature of Jesus**. During that time rival Christian factions were contending about whether Jesus was human or God. **One group under Arius**, an Egyptian Alexandrian bishop, **proponent of the non-god lobby**, argued that Jesus could have become divine through his righteous deeds but not because of his nature. **The other group under Athanasius**, another Alexandrian bishop, **proponent of Jesus’ divinity lobby**, was insisting that **Jesus was divine by nature, like his Father, the God**. The opinion on the nature of Jesus was split. It had to be put to the vote among 220 bishops present there. **Arius lost the ballot, 3 to 217 votes. Thus, the Nicæan Council, a human endeavour determined the nature of Jesus. This contradicts Christianity to be a religion from God.**

Ref: *HOW JESUS BECAME CHRISTIAN*, Barrie Wilson, 2009, Vintage Canada, p. 105.

Constantine had adopted the Pauline version of Christianity, which is synonymous to Roman Paganism. That is why the winner of the Nicæan council’s vote needed a Paganized version of the Christian Creed, and the Nicæan Creed exactly is that. It is the perfect replica of Roman Paganism with the name of Jesus in place of the Pagan Christ Dionysus. Thus, **Horus the ancient Egyptian Christ was synthesized into Dionysus the Greek Christ, then into Jesus the Christ of Pauline Christianity. Thus, the transformation of Jesus from Israeli Messiah into the Pagan Christ was completed.** Then, the Torah-defiant Pauline Christianity became the state religion of the Roman Empire, which was the precursor of the Roman Catholic Church. **On the other hand, the Torah observant Jewish followers of Jesus (the Messianic Jews, the Ebionites, the Nazarenes, etc.)** became the target of brute persecution of Pauline Christianity with the aided might of the mighty Roman Empire. Both the sides: **Torah observant**, and **Torah defiant**, considered each other as heretics.

The authors of *The Hiram Key* stated that heresy had been an accusation readily and imprecisely hurled by one Christian group to another. After Emperor Constantine took control, the truth became what the emperor said it was, and the rest was heresy and work of the devil. Many scriptures were outlawed and condemned as gnostic, which effectively removed them from being considered as Christian Creed.

Ref: *The Hiram Key*, by Christopher Knight & Robert Lomas, Arrow Books, London, U.K. 1997, pp. 85-87.

On the site where the Vatican now stands there once stood a Pagan Temple. There Pagan priests observed sacred ceremonies of the mystery religion of **Dionysus** who was the Pagan saviour, the godman, the **Pagan Christ to them**. Where today the faithful mass revere their Lord **Jesus Christ**, the Pagans worshipped a **different Christ** who, like Jesus, had been born of a virgin mother on 25th of December. **There Pagan priests celebrated a symbolic meal of bread and wine in commemoration of their saviour, who just like Jesus, had declared, “He who will not eat of my body and drink of my blood, so that he will be made one with me and I with him, the same shall not know salvation”.**

These are just some of the motifs shared between the tales of Horus-Osiris-Dionysus and the ‘biography’ of Jesus. Why are these remarkable similarities not common knowledge? Because the early Roman Church did everything in its power to prevent us perceiving them... Pagan critics of Christianity, such as the satirist Celsus, complained that this recent religion was nothing more than a pale reflection of their own ancient teachings. **The obvious explanation is that as early Christianity became the dominant power in the previously Pagan world, popular motifs from Pagan mythology became grafted onto the biography of Jesus.** It was this school of Christianity that was adopted by the Roman Empire in the 4th century CE, becoming Roman Catholicism and all its subsequent offshoots.

Ref: *THE JESUS MYSTERIES*, Timothy Freke & Peter Gandy, HarperCollins Publishers, London, UK, 2000, pp. 6-8.

Jesus of Nazareth, son of virgin Mary, himself was not a Christian. Rather, he was a Torah observing Israeli Jew and was the claimant of the awaited Israeli Messiah. All his companions, like him, were Torah adherent Israelis/ Jews. None of whom were Gentile, or Christian. Jesus never abolished or contradicted the Torah, but contradicted its wrongful interpretations done by the Jewish clergy. He was never converted to any other religion, and neither did he start a new one. He was an ardent practicing Jew, lifelong, and sincerely adherent to Torah, the Law of Moses. But Paul’s Hellenistic view of the Christ removed the Israeli concept of the Messiah from its Israeli matrix and plunged it into the Gentile one.

Due to the last two thousand years distorted propaganda of Roman Church, **the Christ of Paul’s creation** has utterly **subsumed the Jesus of history, the Israeli awaited Messiah**. Thus, the whole concept of **Jesus the Israeli Messiah** has been substituted by **Jesus the Christ**. Jesus never had forsaken the religion based on Mosaic Law, rather, had reinforced its perpetual validity (MTT 5:17-18; LK 16:17). **If Jesus comes back he would be amazed, or bewildered, or, even enraged, by observing what have been created upon his name.**

Dr. Barrie Wilson states, Jesus brought a new understanding of Torah to his people. Nothing Jesus said or did which meant abolishment of the Torah. In fact, the point of Matthew’s Jesus was not to replace Torah but to enhance its observance, to abide by its provisions even more scrupulously than did the adherents of other parties within Judaism, *“Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven”* (MTT 5:20). Thus, Jesus was urging for the higher level of righteousness and enhanced Torah observance. Therefore, Torah was not diminished or abolished, rather augmented.

Few examples from Jesus’ teachings with added timely attitudes.

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus extended the parameters of the Mosaic law. One of the important commandments is not to murder. Jesus stretched this law to embrace not only the act of murdering someone, but also not being angry upon others (MTT 5:22); because anger

may lead to the act of murdering. Similarly, Jesus enhanced the commandment of not to commit adultery to include improved mental attitude of not lusting after other woman (MTT 5:28); because lustful look is the precursor of actual adultery. These are not abrogation of Mosaic law, but enhancements with more credibility.

Ref: *How Jesus Became Christian*, Barrie Wilson, Ph.D. Vintage Canada, 2009, pp. 105-131.

An Appeal to the Conscience

During Jesus' time politics, culture, and particularly religion, was at a nationalistic level. All other preceding and contemporary religious beliefs, **including Mosaic law**, was strictly of nationalistic nature. All prophets in Hebrew Scripture, their concerns, conation, teachings and exegesis, despair and hope, culture and customs, festivities, religious belief structure, even their concept of God and His particular name, *Yahweh*, was of particular nationalistic dimension. Therefore, **Jesus as the Israeli Messiah, as Torah adherent Jew**, redeemer and liberator, would be and should be of nationalistic dimension, exclusively for the Israelites.

In the History of religions, the biggest controversy has been revolving around and about Jesus. Jews consider him as a false claimant of the Israeli promised Messiah and as an impostor. Because, according to them, he was killed on the cross. DEUTERONOMY 21:23 reveals that a crucified man is accursed of God, and is a liar.

Christians believe him to be son of God, reincarnated God in human form, who sacrificed his life on the cross for the atonement of sin committed by the common ancestor Adam; he was then resurrected from the dead, ascended to his celestial home where he came from, and finally, one day he will revisit this world to judge mankind.

Vast majority of contemporary Muslims believe that God lifted Jesus alive up into heaven to save him from the accursed death on the cross while his opponent Jews were trying to arrest him. But Qur'an categorically refute this wrong notion and testifies Jesus' survival from the cross and natural death outside Palestine. Qur'an testifies Jesus as one of the greatest prophets of God but refute the belief about him as son of God or God, as the Christians believe him to be.

Jews, Christians and Muslims combined are the great majority and most dominant populace of the world today. But among them enmity and rivalry are continuing like a hidden undercurrent about Jesus' status. Actually, what he was: the Messiah, or - an accursed person/liar/imposter, or - an atoning saviour, or - a true prophet of God? Rightful recognition of Jesus' status must be settled. This could immensely contribute to establish the long-awaited world peace. **Proper recognition of his rightful status is the key**. Rationality dictates and support this.

Thanking you. Peace and blessings of God be upon you.

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